

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 03346 131731Z

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ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 PM-03 SP-02 L-01 INR-05 /032 W

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KU

SUBJ: EGYPTIAN MILITARY ADVISORS IN KUWAIT: ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED
INFORMATION AND TRAVEL TO U.S.

REFS: A) KUWAIT 2715; B) KUWAIT 2976, C) STATE 171511

1. BASED ON INFORMATION WE HAVE RECEIVED IN LAST TWO WEEKS REGARD-
ING STATUS OF EGYPTIAN MILITARY ADVISORS SECONDED TO KUWAIT AIR DEFEN
SE

FORCE, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT KUWAIT PLANS TO TERMINATE THEIR SERVICE
S,

AS SUGGESTED REF. C. AT THE END OF THE GOK FISCAL YEAR 1976 (JUNE 30)
CHIEF EGYPTIAN ADVISOR TOLD ME THAT EGYPTIAN SERVICE CONTRACT HAD NOT
BEEN RENEWED BUT SAID THAT THIS WAS FOR BUREAUCRATIC RATHER THAN POLI
CY

REASONS. HE IMPLIED THAT HE EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN KUWAIT. ALSO, IN
DISCUSSIONS WITH USLOK CHIEF JULY 11, ANOTHER EGYPTIAN ADVISOR SPOKE
AS THOUGH HE WAS FULLY EMPLOYED AND GAVE NO INDICATION THAT SERVICES
WOULD BE TERMINATED. OUR TENTATIVE CONCLUSION IS THE GOK BUDGETARY
DELAY MERELY HOLDING UP SIGNING OF NEW CONTRACTS FOR EGYPTIANS'
SERVICES, JUST AS SIGNING OF SOME OF OUR FMS CONTRACTS IS BEING DELAY
ED.

ALSO, WE CANNOT BELIEVE THAT THE KUWAITIS WOULD BE SO FOOLISH AS TO
"FIRE" THEIR ONLY AIR DEFENSE EXPERTS AT THIS CRUCIAL JUNCTURE IN THE

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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 03346 131731Z

IHAWK PROGRAM.

2. ON THE ASSUMPTION,
THEREFORE, THAT EGYPTIANS WILL BE RETAINED, THERE
IS INCREASING NEED FOR URGENT DECISION ON THE QUESTION OF PERMITTING
EGYPTIAN MILITARY ADVISORS ACCESS TO IHAWK MILLILE CLASSIFIED MATERIA
L.

REF A CONFIRMED THAT KUWAITIS ARE PREPARED TO HAVE EGYPTIANS RECEIVE
MATERIAL ON THEIR BEHALF, AND WE STILL ASSUME THAT GOK WILL WANT TO
SEND AT LEAST ONE EGYPTIAN IN AUGUST TO OBSERVE RELATED TECHNICAL AND
TACTICAL ELECTRONIC TESTS IN CALIFORNIA (REF B). MOREOVER, WE UNDER-
STAND THAT DOD IHAWK PROJECT MANAGER PLANS TO CONDUCT AN INAPROGRESS
REVIEW IN THE US OF PROJECT DURING AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, AND WE ARE
CONVINCED THAT GOK WILL WANT TO SEND AT LEAST TWO EGYPTIAN ADVISORS
TO THIS REVIEW. THUS, OUR POSTURE TOWARD TSD EGYPTIAN ADVISORS WILL
BE PUT TO THE TEST SHORTLY.

3. AS I NOTED IN EARLY JUNE (REF A), A DECISION NOT TO PROVIDE CLASS-
IFIED IHAWK DATA TO EGYPTIAN ADVISORS WOULD RAISE A SERIOUS BILATERAL
POLITICAL QUESTION HERE, ANDHPERHAPS IN EGYPT, AND AN OBSTACLE TO THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR ALREADY SHAKY FMS PROGRAM IN KUWAIT. THUS, I
REPEAT MY HOPE THAT OUR DECISION WILL BE AFFIRMATIVE.

4. REGARDLESS OF THE DECISION ON EGYPTIAN ACCESS TO I-HAWK INFORMA-
TION, THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER SEPARATELY QUESTION
OF EGYPTIAN ADVISORS TRAVELING TO U.S. FOR TWO PURPOSES MENTIONED
PARA 2. WE ASSUME THAT NEITHER OBSERVATION OF ELECTRONIC TESTS NOR
PARTICIPATION IN PROJECT REVIEW WOULD NECESSARILY INVOLVE CLASSIFIED
INFORMATION. I RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT ASCERTAIN THIS NOW AND INFORM
EMBASSY, SINCE EGYPTIANS WILL NEED SEVERAL WEEKS TO OBTAIN PERMISSION
FOR SUCH VISITS FROM THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT. ALSO, WE NEED INDICATION
WHETHER SUCH VISITS BY EGYPTIANS ADVISABLE ON POLICY GROUNDS IN THE
EVENT THAT THERE IS NO DECISION ON THEIR ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED ATA OR,
ALTERNATIVELY, IN THE EVENT THAT THE DECISION IS NEGATIVE. WE ARE AS-
SSUMING, OF COURSE, THAT A POSITIVE DECISION ON EGYPTIAN ACCESS WOULD
ALSO MEAN A GREEN LIGHT FOR IHAWK - RELATED VISITS BY EGYPTIANS TO U.
S.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ADVISERS, INFORMATION CONTROL, MISSILES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KUWAIT03346
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760272-1078
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760765/aaaacevu.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS, LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS, LIMDIS
Reference: 76 KUWAIT 2715, 76 KUWAIT 2976, 76 STATE 171511
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EGYPTIAN MILITARY ADVISORS IN KUWAIT: ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION AND TRAVEL TO U.S.
TAGS: MASS, KU, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006